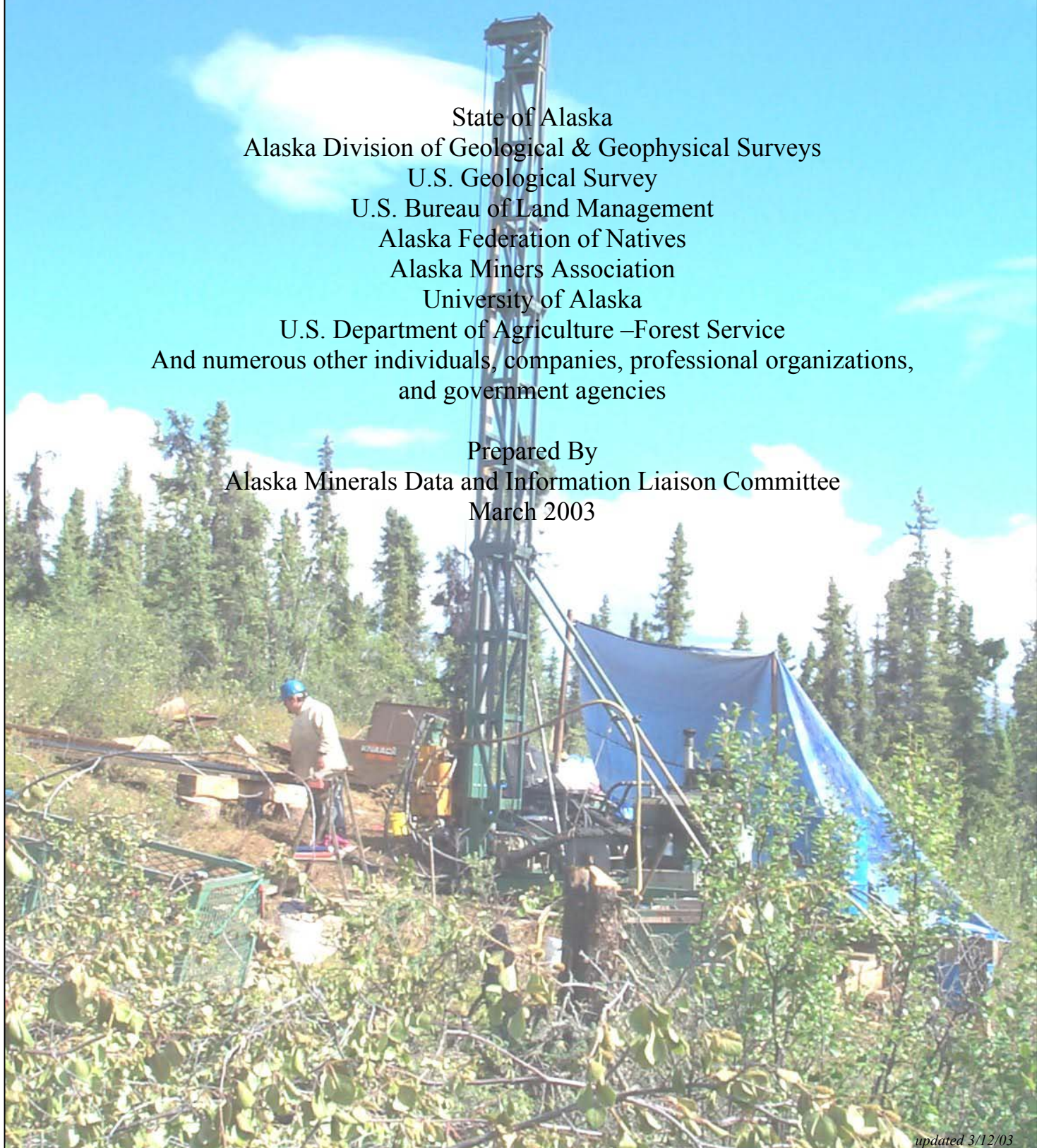


MINERALS DATA AND INFORMATION RESCUE IN ALASKA

FY2003 ANNUAL REPORT

State of Alaska
Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Miners Association
University of Alaska
U.S. Department of Agriculture –Forest Service
And numerous other individuals, companies, professional organizations,
and government agencies

Prepared By
Alaska Minerals Data and Information Liaison Committee
March 2003



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the Minerals Data and Information Rescue in Alaska (MDIRA) project is to recover and make easily available the full body of Alaska mineral information through a coordinated system that provides efficient access or indices to all mineral related files, documents, and physical samples held in the public domain. This body of information includes geologic framework data now out of print as well as data collections from agency and private sector geologists that was never published, geophysical data, state and federal mining claim information, geochemical data sets, and M.S. and Ph.D. dissertations on Alaska geology that exist in the obscurity of university libraries across the nation.

The MDIRA project was implemented in response to recognition of the importance of the Alaska subcontinent's mineral resources to the nation and a concern that decades of important Alaskan minerals information were being lost, or were in imminent danger of being lost. Much information has become unavailable to the public, industry, and even the government agencies that generated it. Out of print government publications are continuously lost through the attrition of unreturned loans or theft. Voluminous files of analytical data that are hard to use or hard to access are ignored despite their relevance and value because professionals do not have the time to recover them and convert them to digital format. Recent downsizing of both federal and state geological agencies has left large volumes of data stranded in unorganized files that, almost surely, will be disposed of as institutional memory of their significance is lost through continued personnel attrition.



Front cover and above: Core drilling at the Hook target on AngloGold's Gobi gold property near the Pogo property in the Goodpaster mining district. Photos by David Szumigala.

The FY 1997 U.S. Geological Survey's appropriation bill stated:

"The [Senate Appropriations] Committee expects the [U.S. Geological] Survey to report to the Committee no later than March 31, 1997, on the full scope of the geophysical, geologic, and natural resource data collection and storage issues in Alaska. The Survey should work with the University of Alaska, the State of Alaska, the Alaska Federation of Natives, and other interested parties."

Subsequently the U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with a multiagency Alaska liaison committee, prepared a report to Congress in March of 1997 identifying five major issues

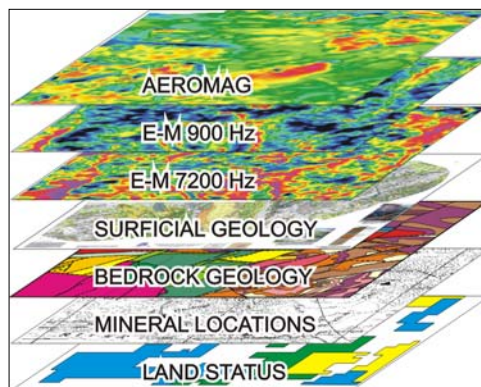
regarding Alaska mineral data. That report provided specific objectives toward the goal of making all Alaska minerals information accessible to the public via computer technology as well as in traditional formats in state and federal repositories in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

The five issues identified during a thorough canvas of Alaska's geological mineral resource private sector, state and federal agency, and academic communities were:

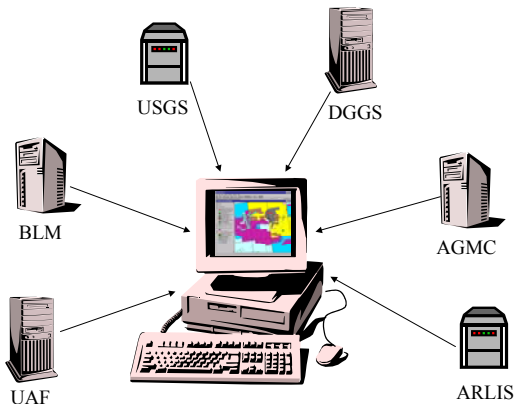
1. *Library resources:* Network the existing libraries; prepare a guide to geologic and minerals information; and catalog all the major collections of geology and minerals information.
2. *Databases:* Develop up-to-date digital databases of Alaskan mineral deposits, geologic literature, and geochemistry data.
3. *Physical Samples:* Provide for the physical preservation of core and other physical samples collected in the field; in particular, need to assure the continued existence of the Geologic Materials Center.
4. *Mining claim information:* Develop an authoritative, digital, claim information system to include both State and Federal claims, including a business process that would keep it up to date.
5. *New Information:* Provide for archival, management, and dissemination of new geologic minerals information.

Pervading all these issues was the recognition that if the data and information recovered were to be kept safe from again slipping into obscurity and loss, they would have to be made more accessible to the public.

Data that are used are data that are valued and protected. Therefore, all five of the above issues embody a commitment to convert as much of the information as appropriate to digital form accessible via the World Wide Web. In those instances where that is impossible, for example physical mineral samples, indices of the archival holdings will be made available online.



Under MDIRA, a tremendous volume of information has been recovered and converted to digital data files since 1997. Many of these files are now accessible via the World Wide Web, but users must have prior knowledge of the location of many different sites in order to find them. This situation falls short of the original goals of the Mineral Data and Information Rescue in Alaska project in that easy access to the data still has not been achieved. This deficiency is being addressed now by the MDIRA project, and, given continued support, a sustainable interagency Alaska mineral database management system will be in place within two years.



The Committee projects that the comprehensive public interface to the data files being recovered in this project will be completed in FY04. At that time, the last of the original data and information files identified as being at risk will be recovered in physical or digital form and an interagency database management system will be in place that will allow for maintaining the historical data and updating the database as new information becomes available. Data will be served to the public from all agencies through a single portal.

Project Status

In conformance with the original Congressional mandate that established the Minerals Data and Information Rescue in Alaska (MDIRA) project, a liaison committee composed of representatives of Alaska’s diverse geologic minerals community meets regularly to review the progress being made by the funded agencies. These meetings are attended by staff from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the University of Alaska, the Alaska Resource Library Information System (ARLIS) and other state libraries, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska Miners Association, and at various times, other interested members of Alaska’s mining community. U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Land Management representatives are invited to these meetings to provide progress reports on the many tasks comprising the MDIRA project and to listen to Alaska stakeholder comments and concerns relevant to the ongoing and scheduled work.



The liaison committee process has worked well to maintain the focus and momentum of MDIRA. The following list of Internet sites provides access to a wide range and growing volume of online Alaska geologic mineral data and mining claim information. The project is still recovering and adding data to several of these sites; however, the sites are still isolated and non-standardized. Nevertheless, these sites are getting increasing use by the public as awareness of their existence spreads. Statistics are not yet available for all sites, but there were 35,037 visits to the DGGs publications site in 2002 and about 600 hits per month on the Alaska Resource Data File (mineral occurrence) site. Statistical software is not yet installed at the other MDIRA sites. The MDIRA project has also published a comprehensive guide to Alaska state and federal agency mineral data to serve as an interim product while the full range of at risk data files are recovered and a suitable maintenance and delivery system is built. This guide is being updated in FY 2003.

Alaska Minerals Data and Information Online

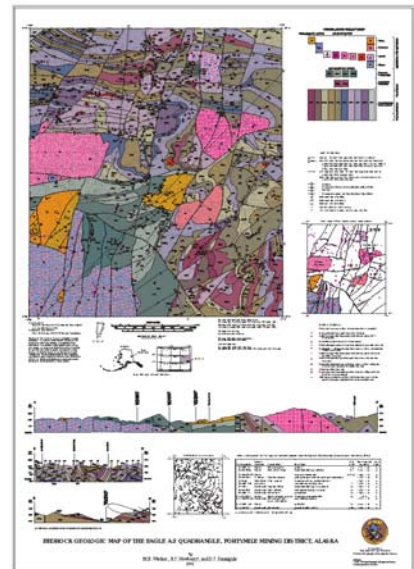
<p>DGGS Publications On-Line Search for geologic publications, and access the files directly on-line.</p>	<p>http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/pubs.html</p>
<p>DGGS Maps On-Line Recently published maps available on line. Also see DGGS Key Word Search Capability</p>	<p>http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/gisexampl3.html</p>
<p>RASS, PLUTO Geochemistry Data Summary of non-rock USGS geo-chemistry data grouped by quadrangle</p>	<p>http://geopubs.wr.usgs.gov/open-file/of99-433/</p>
<p>Alaska Resource Data Files Summary descriptions of known mineral occurrences in Alaska grouped by quadrangle.</p>	<p>http://ardf.wr.usgs.gov/</p>
<p>NURE Data National Uranium Resource data; multi-element regional stream and lake-sediment geochemical trace element data</p>	<p>http://imcg.wr.usgs.gov/nuredata.html</p>
<p>Land Records Information The official distribution site for BLM and DNR Land Records, including Master Title Plats, State Status Plats, State and Federal Surveys, ANSCA documents, and similar records.</p>	<p>http://www.landrecords.info A joint effort between BLM and DNR</p>
<p>Alaska Mining Claims Information System Online spatial display of Federal and State mining claims information. Users can view claims in the context of USGS topo maps and other data. Integrated with the landrecords.info site for more complete info.</p>	<p>http://www.akmining.info/ A joint effort between BLM and DNR</p>
<p>State Map Library The DNR Map Library offers access to maps created and distributed by Alaska DNR. In the past, maps were only offered in paper format. Now using the library, users can download the complete map in PDF format. Once downloaded, the map can be printed or plotted, or taken to a commercial printer for professional results.</p>	<p>http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/lris/gis_maplib/maplib_start.cfm RS2477, general land status, mining claims info available here.</p>
<p>LAS Menu DNR Case-file information live from the database of record. This site includes information on state mining claims and other actions on state-managed land. It is searchable by MTR and other data attributes.</p>	<p>http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/las/LASMenu.cfm</p>
<p>State Recorder's Office Search On web-searchable index of the State Recorder's Office documents. Do your mining claims research on-line. Scanned images of the associated documents are coming on-line next</p>	<p>http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ssd/recoff/search.cfm Real time access to recorded index data.</p>
<p>State UCC Documents Search On web-searchable index of Uniform Commercial Code documents. Scanned images of the associated documents are coming on-line next, ability to file on-line.</p>	<p>http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ssd/ucc/search.cfm</p>
<p>On-Line Annual Payments Make mining claim payments on-line -additional records research is available.</p>	<p>https://nutmeg.state.ak.us/ixpress/dnr/case/lasmenu.dml Secured site, note the 's' in https</p>

Alaska Minerals Data and Information Online (continued)

<p>DNR Sites Related to Mining Applications Mining claim forms, Affidavit of Annual Labor Form, many other forms available to download.</p>	<p>http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/forms/index.htm</p>
<p>Digital Index of Geological Information Electronic bibliography of U.S. Bureau of Mines, State DGGS, and some USGS publications. References searchable by location within Alaska.</p>	<p>http://imcg.wr.usgs.gov/digi.html</p>
<p>Georeferenced Bibliography of USGS Publications Electronic bibliography of USGS publications on Alaska. References searchable by location.</p>	<p>Temporarily offline</p>
<p>USGS Alaska Technical Data Unit Electronic index of unpublished USGS materials on Alaska.</p>	<p>http://alaskaminerals.wr.usgs.gov select "Field Records Archive"</p>
<p>Guide to Alaska Geologic and Mineral Information Electronic version of published guide to all known sources of geologic and minerals information on Alaska.</p>	<p>http://www.dggs.dnr.state.ak.us/Libguide/intropage.htm</p>
<p>Minerals Library Catalogs Cooperating libraries provide print copies of minerals information</p>	<p>http://www.arlis.org http://jmic-cat.ak.blm.gov/athcgi/athweb.pl http://goldmine.uaf.edu/uhtbin/cgisirsi.exe/x/0/49/# TOP</p>

In addition to the above data compilations, the following schedule and spending plan indicates when the remainder of Alaska mineral related geologic data and materials at risk will be recovered and cataloged, and when online references or full-content digital files of the material will be accessible online. The U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources anticipate that all recovered public sector Alaska geologic report, map, and mining claim records information will be online by the end of 2004.

In the schedule, the asterisk (*) indicates the fiscal year during which the digital reference citations or scanned files are completed and the material is either physically archived or captured as a set of digital files that are accessible or indexed in some fashion on the internet.



**Minerals Data and Information Rescue in Alaska
Spending Plan and Milestones 2002-2004**

Tasks	FFY02 USGS Actual	FFY02 USBLM Actual	FFY02 Status	FFY03 USGS Actual	FFY03 Status	FFY04 USGS Request	FFY04 Status
LIBRARIES							
a) Interlibrary Communication	10			5		5	*
b) Guide to Minerals Information & Update	20			40	Update *		
c) ARLIS, USGS, AKTDU, BLM/Juneau, collection catalogue	90			100		25	*
ARLIS USGS Collection			*				
USGS Alaska TDU					*		
Juneau BLM Minerals Information					*		
Alaska Geologic Thesis acquisition							*
d) Internet accessible indexes for private mineral property files, legacy public property files,		475				400	*
USDA-FS & BLM file Indexing					*		
Inventory Private-Sector Mineral Ind. - AKMIDI							*
Archive Unpublished Agency and Private Sector Field Data							*
e) Convert priority maps & reports to digital files	300	400		160	*		
Scan ADGGS Maps & Reports					*		
Mineral Access Corridor map conversion					*		
Scan BLM Mineral Information Files							*
Scan USGS Alaska Bulletins, Maps & PP & Legacy Files							*

* Scheduled or actual completion

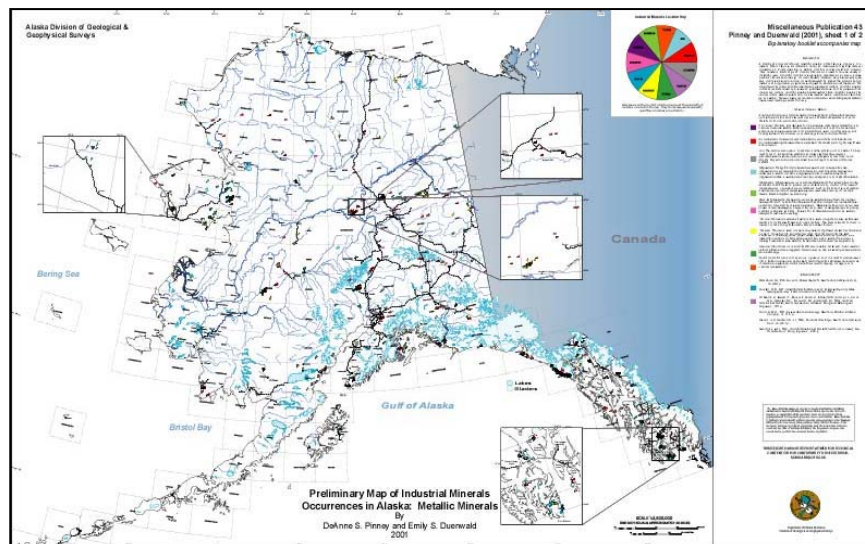
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Spending Plan 2002-2004 (continued)

Tasks	FFY02 USGS Actual	FFY02 USBLM Actual	FFY02 Status	FFY03 USGS Actual	FFY03 Status	FFY04 USGS Request	FFY04 Status
DATABASES							
a) Geochemistry Data	175	400		100	*		
Non-rock GX sample data (USGS)					*		
Major/Minor Oxides (USGS)					*		
Major/Minor Oxides (DGGS existing \$)					*		
USGS Rock GX (Low priority)					*		
USBLM GX					*		
b) Mineral deposits and occurrences (USGS-Alaska Resource Data Files) & AMIS	50	100		270		120	*
INTERAGENCY MINERAL INFORMATION DELIVERY SYSTEM							
a) USGS/BLM Alaska Minerals Information Delivery System (MIDS)	300					400	*
Analysis, Design, Interagency Portal							*
DGGS coordination							*
b) DGGS Alaska Minerals Information delivery system	400			350		500	*
Analysis, Design, Core System							*
Data Loading, Applications							*
Interagency Database Applications							*

* Scheduled or actual completion

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Spending Plan 2002-2004 (continued)

Tasks	FFY02 USGS Actual	FFY02 USBLM Actual	FFY02 Status	FFY03 USGS Actual	FFY03 Status	FFY04 USGS Request	FFY04 Status
c) Alaska Minerals Information Portal Interface & Public Applications		300		475		400	*
d) USGS-USBLM-DGGS Bibliography (figure in FY02 for update)	50	40					*
e) Geochronology database for mineral terranes	55						*
f) Macro-Fossil database for mineral terranes	75						*
g) Interagency Alaska Mineral District Data Update, Final Report, & Operational Plan						200	*
PRESERVATION OF PHYSICAL MATERIALS							
a) Geologic Materials Center - compliance upgrade of facilities							*
b) Geologic Materials Center-Database Conversion to Access & Update							*
c) Geologic Materials Center-mineral sample inventory		60					*
d) Catalogue USGS rock samples moved up from Menlo Park							*
e) GMC Interagency Mineral Sample Storage & Retrieval Database System						200	*
TOTAL	1525	1775		1500		2250	

* Scheduled or actual completion



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